

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 425

January 20, 2006

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**  
**FORM 8-K**  
**Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of**  
**The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 19, 2006**  
**WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Illinois** (State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation)      **0-21923** (Commission File Number)      **36-3873352** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**727 North Bank Lane**  
**Lake Forest, Illinois**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**60045**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(847) 615-4096**

**Not Applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last year)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Signature

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Earnings Release

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**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On January 19, 2006, Wintrust Financial Corporation (the Company ) announced earnings for the fourth quarter of 2005. A copy of the press release relating to the Company s earnings results is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, and incorporated herein by reference. Certain supplemental information relating to non-GAAP financial measures reported in the attached press release is included on page 11 of Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

The information provided in Item 2.01 is incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit

99.1 Fourth Quarter 2005 Earnings Release dated January 19, 2006.

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**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WINTRUST FINANCIAL  
CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ David L. Stoehr

David L. Stoehr  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 19, 2006

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Exhibit

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